B. Duty Concession/Payment made under the following schemes (as provided by Department of Revenue):

Sl. No.	Scheme	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (up to Feb. 2008)
1.	EOU/EHTP/STP/EPZs	9421.95	8266.34	10448.60	14385.51	21858.28
2.	Duty Drawback for Physical Exports	4415.00	2811.52	2659.82	5646	7595.75
3.	SEZ	1320.02	1077.31	1708.72	2204.59	2197.07

Hike in cement price

†3116. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of cement has been hiked recently by the cement industry in the country;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in the prices;

(c) the Government tax, increase in prices of fuel and its supply being less than the demand have been cited as the reasons for increasing the prices by the cement industry; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government on their above said reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) The prices of cement had increased sharply between December, 2005 and March, 2007 due to demand-supply mismatch. However, prices have largely stabilized since March, 2007, showing an increase of 4.44% between March, 2007 and March, 2008. Government has taken a number of measures to increase the supply of cement in the market to cater to increased demand. These include facilitating import by reducing the import duty on cement to 'Nil', removal of countervailing duty and special additional customs duty. Further, MMTC Ltd., a Government of India enterprise, TANCEM, a State Government enterprise of Tamil Nadu and M/s Puducherry Agro Services Industries Corporation (PASIC) have been given a special dispensation to import cement under the provisions of Cement (Quality Control) Order, 2003 to enable availability of significant quantities of imported cement in the market. The export of cement has also been banned and Government's resolve to take strict measures to curb profiteering and cartelization have been announced.

Patents issued during 2007

3117. SHRI P. R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many patents have been issued by the Patent Office in 2007;

(b) the details of it category-wise; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) how many private individuals and companies acquired patents last year and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The Indian Patent Office had granted 10,460 patents during the calendar year 2007.

(b) The category-wise list of patents granted is as under:

	Field of Invention	Number of Patents
1.	Agrochemical	47
2.	Bio-technology	251
3.	Bio-chemistry	916
4.	Bio-medical	62
5.	Chemical	1647
6.	Civil	119
7.	Communication	373
8.	Computer Science	192
9.	Electrical	787
10.	Electronics	678
11.	Food	67
12.	General	394
13.	Mechanical	2414
14.	Metallurgy	180
15.	Micro-biology	227
16.	Pharmaceutical	716
17.	Physics	159
18.	Polymer Science	233
19.	Textile	163
20.	Other	835
	TOTAL:	10460

(c) The number of patents granted by the Patent Office to private individuals and companies during the calendar year 2007 are as under:

Sl.No.	Nature of the Patent holder	Number of patents
1.	Natural person	872
2.	Other than Natural person (companies, etc.)	9588
	TOTAL:	10460